

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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**MEMORANDUM**

**September 27, 2021**

**To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform**

**Fr: Committee Staff**

**Re: Hearing on “A State of Crisis: Examining the Urgent Need to Protect and Expand Abortion Rights and Access in the United States”**

On **Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.**, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hybrid hearing in **room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and on the Zoom video platform** to examine threats to abortion rights and access in the United States. The hearing will also evaluate actions the federal government can take to protect the right to abortion and expand access to abortion care.

**I. BACKGROUND**

Several state governments are pursuing policies to restrict access to abortion care. These measures include the criminalization of abortion and the imposition of medically unnecessary requirements on patients, clinics, and providers. People of color, people with lower incomes, people in rural communities, and LGBTQ+ people have been disproportionately harmed by these restrictions.<sup>1</sup>

On September 1, 2021, Texas’s Senate Bill 8 (S.B. 8) took effect after the Supreme Court declined to enjoin the law. S.B. 8 bans abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, before many people even know they are pregnant. The law makes no exceptions for cases of rape, incest, or

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<sup>1</sup> Nikita Mhatre, *Abortion Restrictions Hurt Women of Color*, National Partnership for Women and Families (Apr. 15, 2019) (online at [www.nationalpartnership.org/our-impact/blog/general/abortion-restrictions-hurt-women-of-color.html](http://www.nationalpartnership.org/our-impact/blog/general/abortion-restrictions-hurt-women-of-color.html)); Guttmacher Institute, *Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) Laws* (Jan. 2020) (online at [www.guttmacher.org/evidence-you-can-use/targeted-regulation-abortion-providers-trap-laws](http://www.guttmacher.org/evidence-you-can-use/targeted-regulation-abortion-providers-trap-laws)); Guttmacher Institute, *Not Up for Debate: LGBTQ People Need and Deserve Tailored Sexual and Reproductive Health Care* (Nov. 2020) (online at [www.guttmacher.org/article/2020/11/not-debate-lgbtq-people-need-and-deserve-tailored-sexual-and-reproductive-health](http://www.guttmacher.org/article/2020/11/not-debate-lgbtq-people-need-and-deserve-tailored-sexual-and-reproductive-health)).

fetal anomalies. Under S.B. 8, private citizens—including those outside of Texas—can sue abortion providers or any person who aids a patient in getting an abortion after six weeks.<sup>2</sup>

## **II. HEARING PURPOSE**

The purpose of the hearing is to examine how state actions—such as S.B. 8—undermine a person’s constitutional right to abortion and affect the health and economic wellbeing of people in the United States. The hearing will also examine how the federal government can protect and expand abortion rights and access for people seeking care across the United States.

## **III. WITNESSES**

### *Panel I*

**The Honorable Cori Bush**

Member of Congress, First District of Missouri

**The Honorable Barbara Lee**

Co-Chair, Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus  
Member of Congress, 13th District of California

**The Honorable Kat Cammack**

Member of Congress, Third District of Florida

**The Honorable Pramila Jayapal**

Member of Congress, Seventh District of Washington

**The Honorable Judy Chu**

Member of Congress, 27th District of California

### *Panel II*

**Ms. Gloria Steinem**

Feminist and Social Activist

**Ms. Maleeha Aziz**

Community Organizer, Texas Equal Access Fund

**Dr. Ghazaleh Moayed**

Texas-based OB/GYN  
Board Member, Physicians for Reproductive Health

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<sup>2</sup> Center for Reproductive Rights, *Whole Woman’s Health et al. v. Jackson et al.* (online at <https://reproductiverights.org/case/texas-abortion-ban-whole-womans-health-jackson/>) (accessed Sept. 27, 2021).

**Dr. Ingrid Skop**

Texas-based OB/GYN

**Ms. Melissa Murray**

Professor of Law, New York University

**Ms. Loretta Ross**

Co-Founder of the Reproductive Justice Movement

Associate Professor of the Study of Women and Gender, Smith College

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